



Capitol Report

News & Updates from Your State Capitol
By Arkansas Secretary of State Charlie Daniels

Spring 2007

Election Reforms Lead Administration's Legislative Goals

Over his first term as chief elections official for the state, Secretary of State Charlie Daniels has overseen a major transformation in the election process that culminated in 2006 with the full implementation of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). Secretary Daniels orchestrated the modernizing of the state's voting equipment, and all Arkansans had an opportunity to vote electronically in the November General Election. Thanks to careful planning and the dedication of election officials across the state, Arkansas was ahead of much of the country in meeting the new federal requirements.

However, modernizing elections did not go without some growing pains that re-

vealed additional legislative changes that are needed to improve the process.

"During my re-election campaign, I proposed several new ideas for continued election reforms," said Secretary Daniels. "My staff and I have been working diligently to make those ideas into reality during the 86th General Assembly."

Measures that are on track for legislative approval are:

- Changes to election law that will make the voting process easier for Arkansans, including allowing voters to transfer their registration more easily and giving more time and flexibility for processing overseas absentee ballots.

(See GOALS Cont. on Page 2)



During the 86th General Assembly, my staff and I have worked closely with legislators to further streamline our elections process.

As we implemented the federal Help America Vote Act, one of the most urgent needs that emerged was a change in our statutory timeline, from candidate filing all the way through run-off elections. The new technology of our voting system requires more time for programming equipment, printing ballots and ensuring accuracy through testing. We must give our officials adequate time to prepare before primary elections and especially between the election and early voting for run-off elections.

Essential to improving that process would be to create an election coordinator position in each county. In 2008, we will face four major elections: the new Presidential Primary in February, Preferential Primary in May, School Elections in September and the General Election in November. Add in the early voting periods, subsequent run-off elections and additional local special elections, and you can see how it is becoming a full-time job to administer these overlapping elections.

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Students Speak Up during Young Voters Month at State Capitol

The Equal Rights Amendment, capital punishment for minors and the war in Iraq – these ripped-from-the-headlines topics helped spark debate among students participating in this year's Young Voters Month activities at the State Capitol. The program is designed to engage high school students and help them realize how their vote can have a very real influence on issues that affect young adults.

Students from the four congressional districts across Arkansas participated in the events March 6 – March 8 at the Association of Arkansas Counties building in Little Rock. Secretary of State Daniels, Arkansas's chief election official, has hosted the event since 2003, and since

that time, over 700 students have participated in the program.

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Election commissioners are largely volunteers with their own full-time employment, and our county clerks have many other duties under their charge. An additional paid staff person dedicated to the day-to-day management of our elections would be a true asset in monitoring progress, catching problems early and ensuring compliance with state and federal laws. It is my sincere hope that we can make that help happen for our county officials.

Among other priorities for my second term is to continue improving our services for corporations and to pursue funding to complete the restoration of the State Capitol's exterior. I am so pleased with the results on the restored dome and north façade. But their brilliance draws attention to the remaining areas that need attention. Hopefully funds will become available so we can begin that work soon.

Again, thank you for entrusting me once again with the duties of this office. I look forward to another successful term of serving the people of Arkansas.

Let Us Know!

Need a Speaker?

The Secretary of State offers specialized programs for students, civic groups, businesses and others. To schedule a speaker for your group, call (501) 683-3702 or e-mail speaker@sos.arkansas.gov.

Need to Update?

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GOALS (Continued from front page)

- Revising statutory dates in the election calendar that will assist counties in meeting the challenges of election administration and deadlines imposed by technologically advanced voting systems, including time for programming and testing machines; and
- Offering a voluntary certification program for county election administrators.

One of Secretary Daniels' main objectives continues to be the addition of election administrator positions in all 75 counties. This proposal received widespread support from county clerks, election commissioners, the governor and legislators alike. Unfortunately, the addition of a separate Presidential Primary has drained elections appropriations, so no additional funding is available for the new positions from this session. However, legislators are keeping the proposal on the front burner by conducting an interim study on the administrator plan, which will improve the chances for full funding in the next session.

"I still feel the additional staff is a necessity for our counties, and we are not giving up on this plan," Daniels assured. "The interim study and the certification program will be solid steps in the right direction."

To search and track current legislation, log onto www.arkleg.state.ar.us.

Saluting the National Guard

No, it wasn't an invasion at the State Capitol on Feb. 14 – it was Arkansas's own celebrating Arkansas National Guard Day. After a bank of morning fog lifted, the sky thundered with the arrival of the Black Hawk and Huey helicopters that circled the dome, then landed on the northeast lawn.

In total, the Arkansas National Guard continues to have more than 1,400 Soldiers and Airmen mobilized for overseas service. Over 200 more are currently serving on the southwest border of the United States. Over 10,000 Soldiers and Airmen strong, the Arkansas Guard has supported the mobilization of over 8,000 troops since Sept. 11, 2001.



YOUNG VOTERS (Continued from front page)

In addition to comments from Secretary Daniels, the program included a history of voting in the US, a discussion on the Voting Rights Act of 1965, a mock election, a visit from their state Senators and state Representatives, and a tour of the Capitol, which included a visit to the House and Senate galleries. The students also had an opportunity to participate in a forum to voice their opinions on current events, voter participation and state and federal issues affecting young people.

"The main goal of this program has always been to convey to the student participants that voting is a very important matter," said Secretary Daniels. "Their vote helps shape not only their future, but the future of our state and country by the people whom they help elect. Many young Americans of voting age don't believe that their vote matters and don't feel a sense of urgency or importance when it comes to the voting process. With this program, we encourage the student delegation to go back to their schools and their communities and become proactive in encouraging others of voting age to be better educated on the issues and the voting process," he added.

Arkansas Young Voters Month is held in cooperation with the National Association of Secretaries of State.

Secretary of State's Office Conducts County Clerk Training

The Secretary of State's Office conducted training for Arkansas's newly elected County Clerks and their deputies January 22-26. The training was an introductory class on how to use the Network of Voters in Arkansas (NOVA) voter registration system.

County clerks and deputy county clerks from Boone, Desha, Garland, Hempstead, Little River, Lonoke, Pope, Prairie, Van Buren, and Woodruff Counties attended. Participants were trained by a representative of Election Systems and Software (ES&S) and staff members of the Secretary of State's Elections Department and Information Technology Department.

NOVA enables election officials to manage elections more efficiently. The system allows counties to process voter registrations through one centralized system and provides county election officials the ability to share information with other counties, the Division of Motor Vehicles, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Arkansas Crime Information Center in order to maintain more accurate voter rolls.

Some of the topics the clerks were trained on included:

- Voter Registration
- Election Processing
- Security Management
- Setting up an Election
- Absentee Voter Management
- Security Management
- Staffing and Equipping an Election
- Polling Place Maintenance

"Most counties in the other states using the new Voter Registration System had to provide the funding for their own



county clerk training," said Secretary of State Charlie Daniels. "I felt that my office should provide the funding and the training for the new county clerks in Arkansas. By conducting this training, we provided comprehensive instructions to adequately equip the county clerks and their deputies with the knowledge they'll need to successfully utilize NOVA in their home counties," he added.



The blooms of the saucer magnolia trees signal spring's arrival at the State Capitol. They'll be followed by tulips, irises and daylilies, then by the many rose varieties that will bloom throughout the summer.

BCS Continues to Improve Services, Extend Convenience to Businesses

The Business and Commercial Services (BCS) Division of the Arkansas Secretary of State continues to enhance and improve services to corporations doing business in the state. BCS strives to move forward and stay at the forefront of new technologies in order to better serve Arkansas businesses. These efforts have included moving our offices to a more accessible and less costly facility; making online services more efficient and user-friendly; appointing an advisory council to guide further improvements; and conducting Notary Public workshops across the state.

With the May 1 deadline for paying franchise taxes fast approaching, new procedures have been implemented to augment processing the more than 102,000 franchise tax statements that were mailed to Arkansas-registered corporations in January. Franchise taxes are payable by May 1 each year to avoid penalties and interest and prevent loss of "Good Standing" status.

In cooperation with Regions Bank and the Information Network of Arkansas, BCS will cut in-house franchise tax processing time by a third. The new structure uses digital

images and electronic transfer of monies to streamline our in-house processing system. This will result in more accurate, record-breaking processing time, and better accounting methods. Of course, the most expedient way to pay franchise taxes is online at www.sos.arkansas.gov.

More businesses rely on credit cards to expedite transactions every day. In January the office began accepting all major credit cards in-house, making it even more convenient to file and submit franchise taxes.

Our work to educate notaries public about Arkansas's notary laws has been highly successful. In 2006 BCS staff conducted over 50 public seminars in cities across Arkansas, as well as giving private seminars to businesses. Over 2,000 current and prospective notaries have attended this class since its inception, and the spring schedule will get underway soon.

BCS' goal is to better serve the Arkansas business community. For more information about BCS services, call (501) 682-3409.

Secretary of State Sponsors History/Civics Workshops for Teachers

This summer, the Communications and Education Division staff will conduct professional development workshops for teachers at educational cooperatives around the state. "Using the State Capitol to Teach" workshops target grades 3-12 and provide an overview of the educational materials and resources available from the Secretary of State's office for teachers, including voter education curriculum for grades K-12 and other programs for all grade levels. The workshops are free to teachers and administrators. Subjects to be covered include Arkansas history, civics/government, American history and art and architecture. Teachers will receive four hours of in-service

credit for attending the workshop. The workshop also meets the required two hours of Arkansas history credit.

The workshop agenda includes these topics: How to Make the Most of Your Capitol Field Trip; Beyond State Symbol Activity Books: An Overview of Programs and Specialized Tours, and Your Best On-Line Resources for Civics and Government. Materials will be distributed from the Secretary of State's office and other state government sites.

For a schedule and more information about the workshops, contact Jennifer Schaffner at (501) 682-3025 or visit our teacher resource website, www.soskids.arkansas.gov.

Online Searching Available for PACs, Lobbyists; Campaign Reporting Coming Soon

Available Now! In an effort to better serve the State of Arkansas, the Secretary of State's office is now offering an online search for Arkansas's registered political action committees (PACs) and lobbyists. This feature will allow users to quickly search all of the PAC and Lobbyist filings in the Secretary of State's office.

Coming this spring, the Arkansas Secretary of State's Office, in conjunction with the Arkansas Ethics Commission, will offer a fast and easy way for Arkansas candidates to electronically file their mandatory Campaign Contribution and Expenditure Reports. This new system will allow candidates to file reports online at their convenience. Filing electronically will also allow quicker, easier, and clearer search features.

All information entered by the filer is completely protected. The system is arranged into two sites: an Administrative Site that only the filer or filer's representative has access to via a unique password, and a Public Site.

On the Administration page, information is entered into standard fields, and then the report is officially filed. After a

report is filed, it cannot be edited by anyone, including the filer, without submitting a new Amended Report. The Public Site displays the information that has been entered in a format similar to the current paper Campaign Contribution and Expenditure Report. No additional information will be disclosed.

Filing online will be fast, easy, and convenient for candidates and researchers alike with enhanced search features and capabilities.

Filers are responsible for all of the information that they submit, and they must ensure that the filings are accurate and current. Neither the Arkansas Secretary of State's Office nor the Arkansas Ethics Commission will be responsible for information entered by the candidate or the candidate's filer.

If you are a candidate and would like to participate in this testing of this new system, please call the Arkansas Secretary of State's Elections Division for further instructions at (501) 682-5070 or 1-800-482-1127 or by e-mail at electionsmail@sos.arkansas.gov.

Taking the Oath

On January 2, 2007, Charlie Daniels took the oath of office for the second time as the 32nd Arkansas Secretary of State. After swearing-in ceremonies in the Arkansas House of Representatives Chamber, he hosted an Inaugural reception in his executive office at the Capitol. "It's been a tremendous honor serving all Arkansans as Secretary of State," said Daniels. "I look forward to serving the citizens and all visitors to our State Capitol over the next four years," he added.



Capitol Display Offers Preview of Mosaic Templars Center

In the decades following the end of the War Between the States, freed African Americans in Arkansas and across the South used their new legal status to better themselves socially, economically and even politically. Although habits of discrimination remained strong, African Americans succeeded as professionals and entrepreneurs, building business communities and districts that survived through the era of legal segregation.

Their stories will be told and interpreted in the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center, a museum of the Department of Arkansas Heritage due to open in downtown Little Rock in 2008. The State Capitol's Spring 2007 exhibit, *The Mosaic Templars Cultural Center: A Mission, A Dream, A Museum*, outlines this exciting project and affords Capitol visitors a preview of the Cultural Center's themes and features.

The Mosaic Templars Cultural Center takes its name from a fraternal order, founded in Little Rock in 1882. The Mosaic Templars of America provided both social outlets and practical benefits in the form of financial support and life insurance to African Americans within Arkansas and across the United States. The founders' vision prospered enough so that in 1912 the Mosaic Templars commissioned a major building at the intersection of Broadway and West Ninth Street in downtown Little Rock to serve as their National Temple, or headquarters. Even after the Templars disbanded in the 1930s, the old National Temple building remained a major anchor of the African American business district located along West Ninth Street. In 2004 the building was purchased by the Department of Arkansas Heritage to serve as a cultural center interpreting the story of

African American life and businesses in Arkansas from 1870 to the present.

Fire destroyed the headquarters building in March 2005 but did not extinguish the vision: a new facility closely resembling the original structure will open to the public in Summer 2008 as a state-of-the-art facility with a mission: to build the cultural connections between Arkansans past and present, and to preserve and tell the stories of Arkansas's African American life and enterprise. The Capitol exhibit highlights the center's collections, including works by artist and entrepreneur Isaac Scott Hathaway, as well as the intertwined histories of the Mosaic Templars and Ninth Street.

The Mosaic Templars Cultural Center: A Mission, A Dream, A Museum will remain on view in the Capitol through mid-May. The Capitol is open from 7-6 Mondays through Friday and 10-3 on weekends. Admission, as always, is free.



Office Seeks ANCRC Grant to Continue Restorations

With the restored Capitol dome now gleaming in the spring sunshine, the Secretary of State's office is pursuing another grant to bring that luster to even more of the building's stonework.

The administration has applied for more than \$1.8 million in grant funding from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council. That funding will finance the third phase of restoration and repairs, this time focusing on the stone veneer of the west façade.

Sandblasting in the 1940s removed the seasoned finish, resulting in a porous surface that allowed moisture to seep into the limestone. In the 1960s and 70s, workers replaced missing mortar with a cement-based material that actually worsened damage. It cured harder than the surrounding limestone, preventing the stone from expanding and contracting as weather conditions changed. The veneer became cracked and broken under that pressure.

The extent of that damage became evident as crews repaired the dome and north façade in the first two phases of the current restoration program. Ornamental elements and ledges bear the most damage and remain at the greatest risk for stone loss.

The next phase of work will entail cleaning surfaces with low-pressure sprays, removing old cement mortar and replacing it with a lime mortar that will "breathe" with the stonework. Crews will then seal stone surfaces with the same protective mineral coating used on the dome.

The ANCRC has been the sole source of funding for restoration and reconstruction projects both inside and outside the State Capitol over the past eight years. If the State Capitol receives another grant, it will be announced in May and work could begin as early as August.

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In Memoriam: Nancy Hall Bailey

On January 9, the State Capitol lost one of “its own,” with the death of Mrs. Nancy Hall Bailey of Little Rock. It was through a father’s gift to her that we have a living history of a significant period of the Secretary of State’s office.

Mrs. Bailey was the daughter of C.G. “Crip” Hall, who served as Secretary of State from 1937 to 1961, and Nancy J. Hall, who was appointed Secretary after her husband’s death, and then was elected State Treasurer, serving from 1963 to 1981.

Nancy Hall was 7 years old when her father became Arkansas’s twenty-fourth secretary of state. When “Crip” Hall took his oath, the office was clouded by controversy, and the Capitol, barely two decades old, was characterized as run-down amidst an undeveloped landscape. Hall won his first bid for office, promising to “make the Capitol a showplace,” and remained true to his word.

Under Crip Hall’s direction, the grounds were developed with trees, walkways and a sprinkler system to keep the lawns lush through summer heat. Hall also founded the tradition of decorating the Capitol for Christmas as a gesture to cheer patients at the nearby infirmary, now known as Arkansas Children’s Hospital. Hall also instituted a microfilming program for state records that had already outgrown available storage.

No state law requires comprehensive records of such

activities; thus, the actions of many past constitutional officers are largely unknown. Such is not the case for the Hall administration, however. Much of our knowledge of the Capitol between 1937 and 1961 is preserved in scrapbooks that Crip Hall began for his daughter, Nancy. These keepsakes, preserved by the Arkansas History Commission, document the official actions of the Hall administration as well as personal details such as thank-you letters he received for planting rose beds and a 1938 invitation to local boys to help control the excess bird population on the Capitol grounds using their BB guns. These books have been an invaluable resource to past and current Capitol historians.

Nancy Hall Bailey’s life was filled with accomplishments: she graduated from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville in 1952, and followed with her law degree in 1990. She worked as a speech therapist, television personality, teacher and bank officer. She belonged to professional and community organizations, was a Girl Scout troop leader and was active in church and philanthropic affairs. Nancy is survived by her husband, two children and a sister-in-law, plus nieces and nephews and the gift of memories: scrapbooks that preserve more than two decades of Capitol history.